

The Financial Times of Indiana

Balanced budget news from the Office of Governor Frank O'Bannon

Monday, March 4, 2002

www.IN.gov/gov

The News in brief...

State lawmakers must pass a tax and budget bill to avoid deeper and more painful budget cuts.

-Indianapolis Star, February 19, 2002

Responding to the national recession's effect on Indiana revenues, Governor O'Bannon has slashed \$782 million from the state's budget. Although every state agency has been forced to reduce costs, the Governor worked hard to lessen the impact of cuts in areas Hoosiers consider essential: education, human services, **public safety** and government accountability.

Since 1997, Indiana has invested in public safety measures that have helped put more police on the street and reduced crime, supported victims, and punished criminals. Through these efforts and the hard work of police officers and prosecutors, our state is a safer place. Indiana's crime rate is the lowest it has been in a decade.

Even before September 11, Indiana had partnered with the U.S. government to work against terrorism. On 9-11, the possibility of terrorism at home took on a new urgency and prompted the Governor to create the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council. Led by Lieutenant Governor Kernan, the Council brings local, state and federal officials together to prevent terrorist acts and to make sure Hoosier emergency responders are prepared to act if terrorists strike.

To ensure these anti-terrorism activities, as well as more traditional law enforcement, can continue to reduce Indiana's crime rate, the state's budget must be balanced and more funds must be available to support public safety officers.

Without additional revenue as provided for in the House-passed version of House Bill 1004, the Governor will have no choice but to make deeper reductions to the state budget – and this time, he may not be able to keep those priority areas safe from cuts.

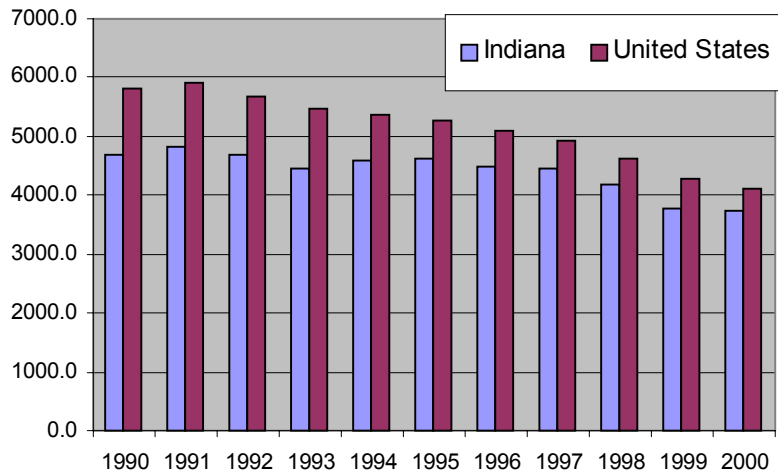
Did You Know?

Indiana has reached an all time high for seat belt compliance. The increased usage in 2000, led to 131 fewer traffic fatalities, the largest single-year reduction Indiana has ever experienced.

Source: ICJI, for more: <http://www.in.gov/cji/>

Indiana Index Crime Rates 1990-2000

(per 100,000 persons, Source: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute)



Hoosiers Protecting Hoosiers

Indiana State Police (ISP) <http://www.in.gov/isp/>

Serving as Indiana's top state law enforcement entity, the Indiana State Police is a full-service police department with 18 districts across Indiana and more than **1,200** troopers protecting Hoosiers. In addition, the ISP maintains a Bureau of Criminal Investigation that includes the Criminal Investigation, Gaming Enforcement and Laboratory Divisions.

Indiana National Guard <http://www.in.gov/ing/>

At the request of the Governor, the Guard provides help during natural disasters like floods and tornadoes, and also stands ready to respond to other emergency needs. Currently, at the request of President Bush, **139** Indiana guardsmen and women are on security detail in Indiana's 6 airports.

C-TASC <http://www.in.gov/c-tasc/>

Governor O'Bannon created the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (C-TASC) in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks. The council is chaired by Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan and includes the leadership from the House and Senate, representatives from state public safety agencies, as well as local, state, and federal law enforcement entities. C-TASC is Indiana's single point-of-contact for issues regarding terrorism for the federal Office of Homeland Security.

State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)

<http://www.in.gov/sema/>

SEMA coordinates with all Indiana public safety officials to provide help in times of emergency. The agency includes the office of the state Fire Marshal and provides training to public safety workers.

Hazardous Material Management

When traces of anthrax were found on a mail machine at a service contractor in Indianapolis, the [Indiana State Department of Health](#) (ISDH) ran necessary tests and analyses to determine potential impacts of the exposure. The [Indiana Department of Environmental Management](#) (IDEM) is actively involved in working with the Department of Defense on their plans to safely address the chemical agent VX, a dangerous compound currently stored at the Newport Chemical Depot in Vermillion County.

Learn more about safety at: <http://www.nsc.org/>